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COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY  
REPUBLICANS**



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## **King Joins Republican Leaders in Introducing “Keep Terrorists Out of America Act”**

*Bill Ensures Guantanamo Detainees Do Not Threaten U.S. Residents or National Security*

**Washington, D.C. (Thursday, May 7, 2009)**—Today, U.S. Rep. Peter T. King (R-NY), Ranking Member of the Committee on Homeland Security, along with Republican Leader John Boehner (R-OH), Republican Whip Eric Cantor (R-VA) and Republican Conference Chairman Mike Pence (R-IN), and other House Republicans, introduced the “Keep Terrorists Out of America Act”, requiring President Obama to obtain the approval of a state governor and legislature before transferring or releasing a Guantanamo Bay detainee into their state. President Obama announced on January 22, 2009 that he will close the Guantanamo Bay detention facility within one year.

“I led the first House delegation to Guantanamo in February after President Obama decided to close the detention center, and I personally believe he made the wrong decision,” said King. “The President made his decision without any shred of a plan of what to actually do with the roughly 240 Guantanamo detainees. The President did not take into account where the detainees will be moved, the costs of moving and detaining them at a new location; whether any foreign countries will agree to accept them; how they will be tried; or really any of the countless other questions that come to mind.”

“In the absence of a plan from the Obama Administration, Congress must take the initiative to ensure that no American lives are put at risk by deadly terrorists being transferred or released into the United States,” King said.

The “Keep Terrorists Out of America Act” would require:

1. the President to notify a State governor and legislature 60 days prior to the transfer or release of a Guantanamo detainee into their state;
2. the President to obtain the consent of the State governor and legislature to the transfer or release; and
3. the President to certify to Congress that the transfer or release of a Guantanamo detainee does not adversely affect the national security of the United States or residents of the United States.

The legislation includes a Sense of Congress section stating that “individuals currently detained at Guantanamo should not be transferred or released into the sovereign territory of the United States.”

On April 23, Rep. King and the Republican members of the Committee on Homeland Security sent a letter to Attorney General Eric Holder and Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano demanding answers to the multitude of outstanding questions about Guantanamo detainees.

On February 23, King led the first House delegation to Guantanamo Bay since the President’s decision to close the detention facility by January 2010.

Other original cosponsors of the legislation include Rep. Jerry Lewis (CA), Ranking Member of the Committee on Appropriations; Rep. John M. McHugh (NY), Ranking Member of the Committee on Armed Services; Lamar Smith (TX), Ranking Member of the Committee on the Judiciary; Rep. Peter Hoekstra (MI), Ranking Member of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence; Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (FL), Ranking Member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs; Rep. Thaddeus McCotter (MI); Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers (WA); Rep. John Carter (TX); Rep. Pete Sessions (TX); Rep. Kevin McCarthy (CA); Rep. David Dreier (CA); Rep. Roy Blunt (MO); Rep. Frank Wolf (VA); Rep. Kay Granger (TX); and Rep. Bill Young (FL).

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